

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNHRC, SHUM
SUBJECT: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION--ITEM 12, CAMBODIA

REF: GENEVA 3497

SUMMARY: IN PRECEDENT-SETTING ACTION DURING THE P.M.
SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8TH, THE HRC ADOPTED BY
CONSENSUS A DECISION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN
DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA.

1. DURING THE DISCUSSION ON ITEM 12, SEVERAL DELS
(SWEDEN, FRANCE, CANADA, AUSTRIA, AND AUSTRALIA) EXPRESSED
THEIR INTEREST IN SUPPORTING THE UK RESOLUTION (REFTEL)
ON DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA.

2. A NUMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNED (JORDAN, PANAMA, NIGERIA,
AND INDIA) NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE ITEM MAY HAVE
BEEN RIPE FOR A PRELIMINARY REPORT, THE FACTS ON THE
ACTUAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CAMBODIA WERE INSUFFIC-
IENT, AND THEY HOPED THAT THE RESOLUTION WOULD NOT BE PUT
TO A VOTE.

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3. CUBA, USSR, SYRIA, BULGARIA, AND YUGOSLAVIA OPPOSED
THE RESOLUTION, STATING THAT THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE
WAS NOT SUBSTANTIATED AND THAT NO INFORMATION HAD EVEN
BEEN REQUESTED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA.

4. AFTER SEVERAL PRIVATE MEETINGS OF THE NON-ALIGNED

DELEGATIONS, LANGUAGE WAS FINALLY ACCEPTED WHICH WAS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE UK LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGE WHICH HAD BEEN PRIVATELY SUGGESTED BY CHAIRMAN M'BAYE.

5. WHEN THE COMPROMISE DECISION WAS BROUGHT UP DURING THE AFTERNOON SESSION MARCH 8TH, THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION BY THE CHAIRMAN AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS.

6. THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS EXPLAINED AFTER THE ADOPTION THAT IF THERE HAD BEEN A VOTE THEY WOULD NOT HAVE PARTICIPATED BECAUSE OF THE IRREGULARITY OF TAKING A MEASURE AS A RESULT OF ONE-SIDED INFORMATION.

7. THE UK EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE ACTION TAKEN AND DECLARED THEIR INTENTION OF KEEPING THEIR ORIGINAL RESOLUTION ON THE TABLE UNTIL NEXT YEAR'S HRC.

8. SWEDEN, AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, U.S. ALL EXPRESSED THEIR STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE DECISION WHICH HAD BEEN ACCEPTED.

9. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA HAD NEVER BEEN CONSIDERED BY EITHER THE COMMISSION OR THE SUBCOMMISSION, IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WAS A DEFINITE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADVANCE FOR THE ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1235 PROCEDURE AND FOR THE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IN ADDITION, THE FACT THAT, AS PROVIDED IN THE DECISION, ANY INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA WILL GO THROUGH THE SUBCOMMISSION SUGGESTS THAT THIS SITUATION WILL BE UNDER CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT SUBCOMMISSION SESSION AS WELL AS DURING THE NEXT HRC.

10. TEXT OF THE DECISION AS ADOPTED FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT. THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS,

REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO TRANSMIT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA THE DOCUMENTS AND SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION RELATING TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY, WITH A VIEW TO INVITING THAT GOVERNMENT TO SEND ITS COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS AND TO TRANSMIT THE RESPONSE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA TOGETHER WITH ALL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE ABOUT THE SITUATION TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS NEXT SESSION, THROUGH

ITS SUBCOMMISSION. END TEXT. SORENSON

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